Oswald Note to FBI Destroyed, Paper Says

DALLAS (UPI) — Lee Harvey Oswald delivered a "threatening letter" to the FBI several days before the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but the FBI destroyed the note and has kept quiet about it for the past 12 years, The Dallas Times Herald reported in its Sunday editions.

The letter did not mention Kennedy, the paper said in a copyrighted, front-page story. But it said the FBI has begun a "full internal inquiry into the Oswald visit and the possible criminal violations in connection with the destruction of the note and the failure to report its existence."

According to the paper the note was intended to stop FBI agents from further questioning of Oswald's wife, Marina. Mrs. Oswald was being visited by FBI agent James P. Hosty Jr., in connection with the bureau's investigation of her husband prior to the presidential visit Nov. 22, 1963.

Neither the note nor the visit resulted in Oswald's being placed under active surveillance, the paper said.

In the story, base partly on conversations with FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley and "sources within the FBI," the Times Herald said "apparently those personnel in the Dallas FBI offices at the time who knew of Oswald's visit and his letter have kept the incident secret for almost 12 years."

The source said the note was destroyed after the assassination. He refused to say who did away with the note.

"In my judgment, this information coming out will blow the lid off the whole damn' case," the paper quoted its source as saying. "That was a real screwup, I guess. We did not tell the police or other protective agencies about it ... it seemed routine at the time of the visit.

"Nuts and threatening mail come in all the time. The letter didn't threaten Kennedy."

The newspaper said the FBI's investigation was prompted "as a result of questions asked by the Times Herald during a July 6, 1975 meeting with Kelley in the Washington FBI headquarters. The story said the newspaper had been checking the incident for several months.

Kelley, in a statement prepared for the Times Herald, said "prior to the current FBI inquiries, there had been no information concerning this visit and note recorded in FBI records, and inquiries tend to corroborate that shortly after the assassination, the note in question was destroyed."

"Inquiries are continuing to determine the full facts concerning the handling of this matter," Kelley said. The FBi said it would have no further comment until "all inquiries have been concluded and the matter considered by the department."